

SULGER-BUEL GALLERY



Isabelle Grobler

Born 1982 in Pretoria, South Africa

Lives and works in Cape Town, South Africa

Specialising in sculptural installation, painting, drawing and printmaking, Isabelle Grobler's work explores notions of hierarchies and power relations in a world fractured by economic and socio-political paradoxes. While her sculpture utilises a variety of discarded and obsolete objects as a starting point, she creates surreal environments populated by hybrid machine-organisms constructed from urban debris. In her painting she looks to 'found concepts and ideas' rather than found objects and draws on the history of art as a starting point for her work.

The spaces she constructs in both her installations and paintings are dreamlike and alien: based on reality, but reconfigured by the unconscious, where recognisable things and ideas have been shuffled and reinterpreted to produce a Kafkaesque ambiguity. The characters vacillate, like Frankenstein's monster, between the threatening and the pathetic, representing a transformation of dead things into unclassifiable beings.

Grobler used a residency in Jaffa, Israel as a starting point to develop a body of work called *the cannibals' congress*. This forms part of her ongoing project *the cannibals' banquet* where she explores the politics of consumption as a psychological and social human function.

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Grobler was born in Pretoria and grew up in Bloemfontein, South Africa. She spent her childhood years between the family farm and town. She completed her BA degree in Fine Art at the University of the Free State in 2009 and her Master of Fine Art at the University of Cape Town in 2012 (cum laude). She was the overall winner of the African Continental juried Lovell Art Competition in 2014. She has exhibited in South Africa, the UK and Israel, in galleries and art fairs including a highly reviewed solo booth at Art15 London. Grobler has had two solo exhibitions at Sulger-Buel Lovell, namely *A Gnaw of Cannibals* in 2016 and *The Meatgrinder Madrigal* in 2018 curated by Andrew Lamprecht was also exhibited at AKA 2018 in Paris, France.

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Education

- 2012 Masters (M.) Degree (cum laude), Michaelis School of Fine Art, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa
- 2009 Fine Art (B.A) Degree (cum laude - Sculpture), University of the Free State, Bloemfontein, South Africa
- 2004 Graphic Design (B.A) Degree, North-West University, Potchefstroom, South Africa

Awards

- 2014 Lovell Art Competition (overall winner), juried by African Continental, Lovell gallery, Cape Town, South Africa

Special Projects

- 2016 *Cannibals' Banquet*, Turbine Art Fair (TAF) Installation, Sulger-Buel Lovell, Turbine Hall, Johannesburg, South Africa

Residencies

- 2015 Tiroche DeLeon Collection, Tel Aviv, Jaffa, Israel

Permanent Collections

- START (African Art) Collection, Tel Aviv, Israel

Solo Exhibitions

- 2018 *The Meatgrinder Madrigal*, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, United Kingdom
The Meatgrinder Madrigal, Also Known As Africa (AKAA) Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), Carreau du Temple, Paris, France
- 2016 *Nocturnal Emissions and The abduction of Francine II*, Cape Town Art Fair (CTAF) Sulger-Buel Lovell, Cape Town International Convention Centre, Cape Town, S.A
- 2015 *Cannibals' Banquet*, ART15 Art Fair (Sulger-Buel Lovell), London, United Kingdom
A Gnaw of Cannibals, Sulger-Buel Lovell, London, United Kingdom
Cannibals' congress, START, Tel Aviv, Israel
Cannibals' Banquet, Sulger-Buel Lovell and Imibala Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 *Cannibals' Banquet* (MFA Exhibition), Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa

Select Group Exhibitions

- 2019 *And So The Stories Ran Away*, Zeits Museum of Contemporary African Art (MOCAA), Cape Town, South Africa

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- 2014 *Lovell Art Competition* (overall winner), juried by African Continental, Lovell gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
- 2013 *ABSA Atelier top 100 Exhibition*, ABSA Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2011 *Judgment/Uitspraak 2011 CASE NO.001/05/2008*, Association for Visual Arts (AVA) Gallery, Cape Town, South Africa
Heimlich Manoeuvre's, Michaelis Galleries, University of Cape Town (UCT), Cape Town, South Africa and Substation Gallery, Johannesburg, South Africa
- 2009 *Controversial, Contemporary and Cutting Edge*, Sasol New Signatures, Pretoria, S.A

Select Publications

- 2019 Weekend Argus, [Zeitz Museum's first art exhibit for children](#) by Lukhanyo Mtuta
Weekend Special, [And So The Children Ran Away At Zeitz MOCAA](#) by Theresa Smith
- 2018 Modern Ghana, [The Meat-Grinder Madrigal In Focus at Sulger-Buel Lovell Gallery](#) by Wilfred Clarke
- 2016 George Herald, [Sulger-Buel Lovell at Cape Town Art Fair 2016](#)
- 2015 SOAS Students' Union, [Sulger-Buel Lovell: The Cannibals' Congress by Isabelle Grobler](#) by David Malik
ISUU, Sulger-Buel Lovell, [The Cannibals' Banquet – Isabelle Grobler](#)

Video Documentation

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